

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a layer of a first material ~~embedded~~ buried in a substrate comprising at least one second material, comprising the following stages:

- formation in said substrate, at the level of the desired ~~embedded~~ buried layer, and by a method excluding the formation of a porous layer, of a layer of microcavities intended to serve as centers of nucleation and volume accommodation to produce said first material in said second material,
- formation of precipitate embryos from the nucleation centers formed, the precipitate embryos corresponding to the first material,
- growth of the precipitates from the embryos through species concentration corresponding to the first material and carried to the microcavity layer.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed by introducing gaseous species into the second material.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 23, in which the gaseous species used to form the layer of microcavities are chosen from among hydrogen, helium and fluorine.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed by an inclusion of gas provoked during formation of the substrate.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed from the interface constituted by the solidarization of a first substrate element and a second substrate element, providing said substrate.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the presence of particles at said interface.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the surface roughness of at least one element among the first substrate element and the second substrate element.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the presence of micro-recesses at the surface of at least one element among the first substrate element and the second substrate element.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from stresses induced at said interface.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the precipitate embryos are formed from species present in the second material.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the precipitate embryos are formed from species introduced into the second material.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 32, in which said introduction is carried out by thermally activated diffusion.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 33, in which, the formation of microcavities implementing a thermal treatment, the precipitate embryos are formed simultaneously with the microcavities.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced into the substrate.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 35, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced into the substrate by thermally activated diffusion.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 35, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced under pressure into the substrate.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 35, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced into the substrate by means of a plasma.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species present in the substrate, under the effect of a thermal treatment.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the formation of precipitate embryos and the growth of precipitates being two operations requiring a thermal treatment, these operations are carried out simultaneously.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22 in which the layer of microcavities is formed in a semiconductor substrate.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 41, in which the substrate is in silicon and the ~~embedded~~ buried layer is a layer of silicon oxide.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 22 and 42 have been amended by replacing the term "embedded" with the synonymous --buried--, which is believed to be the more appropriate term understood in this art.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 22-42 remain pending in the application.